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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 22 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 April 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 21 April 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to respond to the letter dated 14 April 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United nations (A/51/874-S/1997/314).

The said letter repeats the well-known allegations of the Greek Cypriot side regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia". I would like to reiterate emphatically that these allegations stem from the unfounded claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the sole sovereign authority in the island and over its airspace, whereas it has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In this connection, I would also like to reiterate that flights by Turkish aircraft within the airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States that recognize each other. Any attempted interference with this airspace or flight information region is null and void and serves no other purpose than further raising tension in the island, which is already high as a result of the recent purchase by the Greek Cypriot side of a sophisticated S-300 missile system, as well as its overall militarization activity, in defiance of Security Council resolution 1092 (1996) of 23 December 1996. It is noteworthy that within the context of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", the Greek Cypriot administration is preparing to stage provocative joint military manoeuvres with Greece, code-named Toxotis, in early May.

At a time when efforts are being made to resume direct negotiations between the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus under United Nations auspices, this endless barrage of politically motivated propaganda is clearly against the creation of an atmosphere of good will conducive to the resumption of those negotiations and does not enhance the prospects for an early settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus